



27 December 2011

Professor dr ir P.J.M. van Oosterom
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment
TUDELFT
Postbus 5030
2600 GA DELFT

Dear Peter,

It is a pleasure for the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) to write in support of the Maps4Science proposal. We have been exposed to the excellent scientific production of your group and other groups in the proposal consortium, via our common membership in associations such as the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (AGILE) and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

In addition, we see many fruitful avenues for collaborative research and product outcomes that could address several of the geographic information research challenges to be tackled in your proposed large-scale research facility, including:

- Usability and dissemination modes;
- Management of very large data sets;
- Services, searches and optimization;
- Volunteered GI and citizen science; and
- Satellites as a service with Esri's improving imagery deployment services

Funding the Maps4Science infrastructure will again demonstrate Dutch leadership in the global field of geoinformation. As leaders in the geographic information systems market during more than 40 years, and with many users in The Netherlands, Esri can confidently estimate the huge impact that such an infrastructure would have on scientific innovation, which is premised on access to information, of a wide range of scientific disciplines. To that end we stand ready to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to the project, when funded, to help make it successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Dangermond".

Jack Dangermond